

Thoughts on the CF ~~standards process~~ governance

and potential contributions
by US IOOS and/or NOAA

Two phases leading to a standard

1. Development
(getting it right, technically)
2. Certification
(by a designated "authority")

Development phase:

Six steps to growing the standard

1. A new proposal ("requirement")
2. Public discussion/ debate (harmonizing)
 - some minimum level of input needed
 - audit trail -- tracking and linking
3. Provisional resolution

Six steps to growing the standard

4. Trial implementations

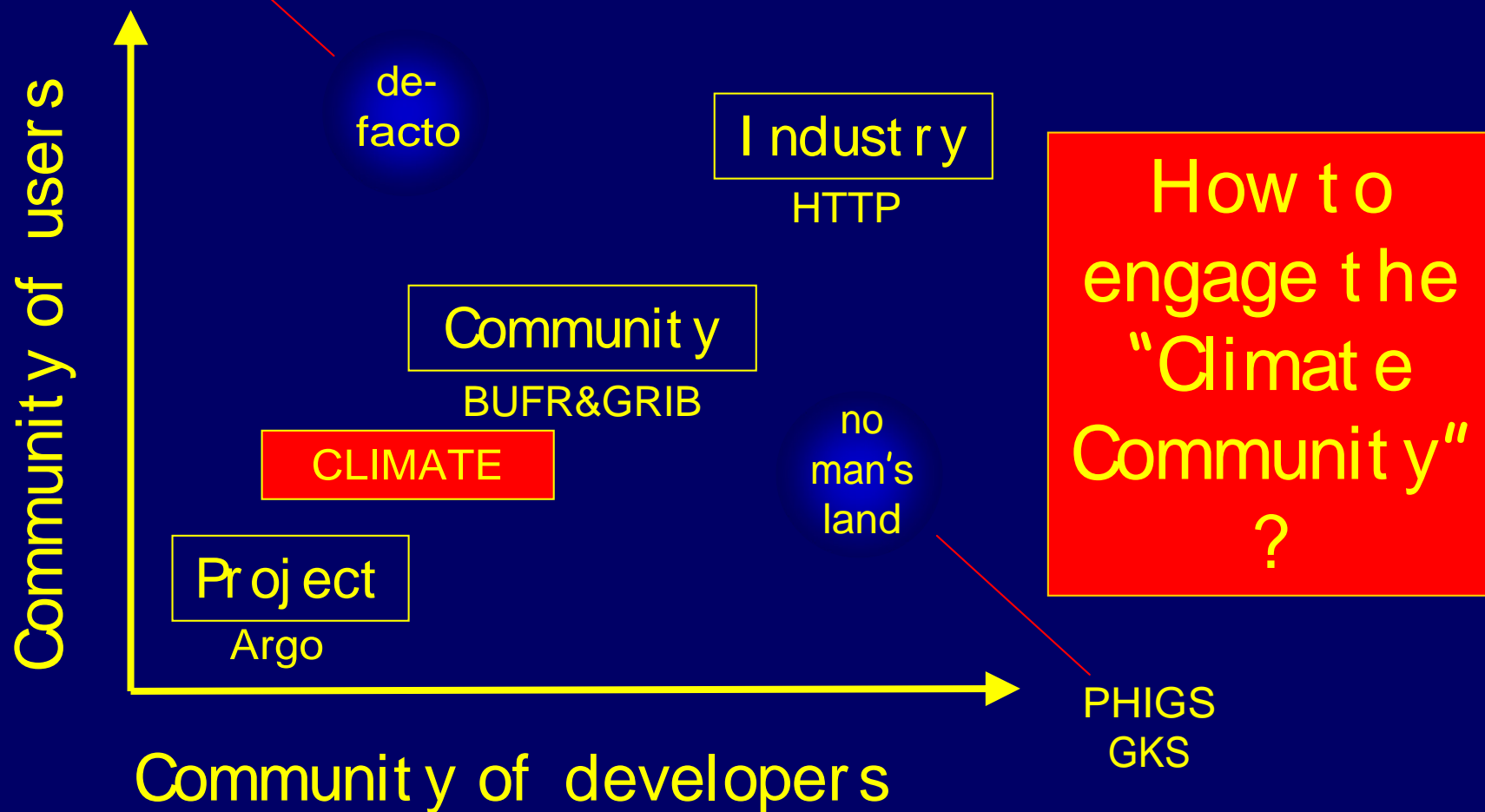
- both file creation & clients

5. Reassess

- Make minor adjustments
or Go back to discussions (step 2)
or Reject the proposal

6. Final acceptance

MS Word
ESRI shapefiles



"Standards Forge" for CF

A linked, audit-trailed, public, monitored forum for discussions and tracking of issues^(*)

The 6 steps:

1. new proposal
2. Public discussion/debate
3. Provisional resolution
4. Trial implementations
5. Reassess
6. Final acceptance

* proposals, trouble reports, harmonization concerns

Standard names v.s. CF structural proposals

- Standard name vocabulary grows much faster than CF versioning can (should)
- Trial implementations not often needed

→ separate versioning for name list

Trying to shake the bushes at

- US-IOOS
 - via frontal approach (unsuccessful for FY06)
 - via Standards Process Expert Team
- NOAA
 - Unstructured grid support needed for coastal marine management

It is turning out to be a hard sell!

Proposed resources

Two year s (~\$ 180K/ year)

- Web sit e development / host ing
- CF W orkshop
- CF St andar ds For ge moder at or (1/ 2 FTE)

Discussion ...

Technical, Social,
Certification, IT tech.

Technical

- some StandardsForge-like Web Presence is the right approach
- test applications: IDV, CDAT, Ingrid, Unidata Java client
 - Should poll the CF email list to see who is doing what
- UNANIMOUS --backwards-compatibility is too strict.
- proposed: required in V1.0 but dropped beyond
- should V1.0 be official or unofficial? (not resolved?)

Endorsed the 6 steps:

1. new proposal
2. Public discussion/debate
3. Provisional resolution
4. Trial implementations
5. Reassess
6. Final acceptance

- should V1.0 be official or unofficial? (not resolved?)
- Is the Unidata Java lib. Going to become a (de facto) reference implementation? A C reference lib soon after?
- compliance levels
 - have to have them
 - standard names
 - units
 - types of grids
- should there be a review now of the existing CF?
Seemed to be agreement. Details tbd.

Social

- need (some) funded participation
 - hope for ½ fte from BADC
 - NOAA support is 50:50 ... another 1/2-3/4 fte
 - if generous funding, then get involved in client developers
- solution has to bridge the Atlantic
- can probably find a host for the Web site free (Unidata?)
- designated group of “experts” (guardian committee) to make consensus choice
 - if consensus cannot be reached → no conclusion
- moderator/document editor/ maintains issues list
 - with low resources a threaded email plus a simple issues list

Certification

- via WMO was suggested – but how to exploit the possibility?
Resources thru WMO?

IT technical

- UNANIMOUS – split off the standard name controlled vocab as a separately versioned standard
 - should reference name spaces for controlled vocabs